(6) The Government of India and the State Government should take most urgent steps to reduce taxation to make the domestic travel competitive and comparable.

(c) The Department of Tourism, Government of India has formulated the following short term and long term plans to attract the foreign as well as domestic tourists:

(1) Positioning and maintaining tourism development as a National priority activity.

(2) Enhancing and maintaining the competitiveness of India as a tourism destination.

(3) Improving India's existing tourism products and expanding these to meet new market requirements.

(4) Creation of world class infrastructure.

(5) Developing sustained and effective market plans and programmes.

(6) Special thrust to rural and small segment tourism, and

(7) Attention to civilizational issues and issues pertaining to civic administration and good governance and also of social and cultural values.

Development of heritage properties in Gujarat

2498. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposals to develop heritage properties in Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted to select such heritage sites/locations in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any proposals are being discussed with the owners of heritage properties in Gujarat; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Neglect of heritage sites by State Governments

2499. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that heritage sites/properties throughout the country are being neglected by various State Governments;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take stern action against the State Governments who are neglecting these heritage sites/properties; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) Under the Constitution, archaeological sites and remains other than those declared as of national importance are to be protected and maintained by the respective State Governments. The Central Government do not propose to intervene in matters which is the specific responsibility of the concerned State Government. They would, however, be suitably advised in the matter.

National Tourist Places

†2500. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:
SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to develop the places associated with the life of Mahatma Gandhi as National Tourist Places;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.